

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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08/08/08: Enforcing Indiana's 0.08 this August, 2008 **Governor's Council Joins Indiana Law Enforcement Agencies to Crackdown on** **Impaired Driving this Labor Day**

Indianapolis, IN.—During a time of year that lends itself to widespread celebrations, the Labor Day holiday can quickly turn tragic when an impaired motorist gets behind the wheel.

According to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), the 2007 Labor Day holiday period (6:00 p.m. August 31 through 5:59 a.m. September 4) was the second most deadly time of year on Indiana roadways, resulting in 11 alcohol-related fatalities and 18 alcohol-related collisions.

In an effort to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on Indiana roadways during the 2008 Labor Day holiday, the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving will join with thousands of law enforcement officers representing more than 250 state and local law enforcement agencies to launch the *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* crackdown on impaired driving and (motorcycle) riding. This statewide campaign will take place from August 15–September 1.

“As we celebrate this Labor Day it is important to remember that driving is a privilege and not a right. As responsible drivers we must all assume accountability for our actions before getting behind the wheel,” said Neil Moore, executive director of ICJI. “I especially want to urge all Hoosiers to be proactive by designating a sober driver before celebrating. Exercising this simple precaution could ultimately save a life.”

Through high-visibility patrols, sobriety checkpoints and other enforcement efforts designed to deter impaired driving particularly during the high-risk nighttime hours, law enforcement officers across the state will be on the look out for those who drive or operate a motorcycle while impaired or intoxicated during this high-risk time.

According to the 2008 Indiana Traffic Safety Alcohol Fact Sheet, published by ICJI, motorcycles, pickup trucks and SUVs were over-represented in alcohol-related collisions statewide in 2007 and were more likely to produce injury. Data also indicates that male drivers between the ages of 21 and 29 killed in motor vehicle collisions were legally intoxicated 43 percent of the time.

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“Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”

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"All too often, the innocent suffer the tragic, costly and avoidable consequences of drunk driving crashes," said Kitty Greene, Indiana state executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). "Much like this campaign, aggressive, high-visibility enforcement and intense public awareness are also key components of MADD's campaign to *Eliminate Drunk Driving*," Greene added.

On any given day, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill one person every 31 minutes nationwide. In 2007, 253 individuals were fatally injured in alcohol-related collisions in Indiana. During the same year, 22 percent of all fatally injured drivers and motorcyclists were shown to have blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.08g/dL or above.

"Drunk Driving,. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." is a national enforcement effort that is supported by federal funding allocated to the Traffic Safety division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). More than \$50 million will be spent on public awareness campaigns nationwide to support this year's crackdown.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, an advisory body to the Traffic Safety division of ICJI, serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways.

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